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CHAPTER 114

REGULATION OF SURFACE MINING

S. F. 279

AN ACT to require licensing of mining operators, to regulate surface mining, and relating to rehabilitation of land affected by surface mining.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state to provide for the rehabilitation and conservation of land affected by surface mining and thereby to preserve natural resources, protect and perpetuate the taxable value of property, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state.

SEC. 2. When used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Overburden" means all of the earth and other materials which lie above natural deposits of coal, gypsum, clay, stone, sand, gravel or other minerals, and includes all earth and other materials disturbed

from their natural state in the process of surface mining.

- 2. "Surface mining" means the mining of coal, gypsum, clay, stone, sand, gravel or other ores or mineral solids for sale or for processing or consumption in the regular operation of a business by removing the overburden lying above natural deposits thereof and mining directly from the natural deposits thereby exposed, or by mining directly from deposits lying exposed in their natural state. Removal of overburden and mining of limited amounts of any ores or mineral solids shall not be considered surface mining when done only for the purpose and to the extent necessary to determine the location, quantity, or quality of any natural deposit, so long as no ores or mineral solids removed during exploratory excavation or mining are sold, processed for sale, or consumed in the regular operation of a business.
- ing exploratory excavation or mining are sold, processed for sale, or consumed in the regular operation of a business.

 3. "Operator" means any person, firm, partnership, or corporation engaged in and controlling a surface mining operation but shall not include a political subdivision of the state of Iowa.

4. "Active site" means a site where surface mining is being conducted.

5. "Inactive site" means a site where surface mining is not being conducted but where overburden has been disturbed in the past for the purpose of conducting surface mining and an operator anticipates conducting further surface mining operations in the future.

6. "Pit" means a tract of land from which overburden has been or

is being removed for the purpose of surface mining.

7. "Affected land" means the area of land from which overburden has been removed or upon which overburden has been deposited or both.

8. "Spoil bank" means overburden removed from its natural position and deposited elsewhere in the process of surface mining.

9. "Ridge" means a lengthened elevation of overburden removed from its natural position and deposited elsewhere in the process of surface mining.

- 38 10. "Peak" means a projecting point of overburden removed from its natural position and deposited elsewhere in the process of surface 39 40 mining.
 - 11. "Irregular spoil bank" means a spoil bank characterized by ridges, peaks, or both, rather than by a continuous slope, when viewed
 - "Department" means the department of mines and minerals.

13. "Board" means the state mining board.

14. "Advisory board" means the "land rehabilitation advisory board" in the department of mines and minerals.

- 15. "Inspector" means the state mine inspector and any other employee of the department of mines and minerals responsible for administration or enforcement of this Act.
- There is hereby established within the department of mines and minerals a land rehabilitation advisory board which shall consist of eight (8) members appointed by the governor, as follows:

1. The state forester or a member educated and experienced in the

field of forestry.

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- 2. The state geologist or a member educated and experienced in the field of geology.
- 3. One (1) member educated and experienced in the field of agronomy.
- 4. One (1) member representing the state conservation commission.
- 5. One (1) member representing the Iowa natural resources coun-
- 6. One (1) member representing the state soil conservation committee.
- 7. Two (2) members representing Iowa surface mining operators. The state association or groups representing each of the industries engaged in surface mining in Iowa, or their managing boards, may jointly submit to the governor in each year when an industry representative is to be appointed a list of two (2) or more persons qualified for the appointment. If a list is submitted, the governor shall appoint to the advisory board at least one (1) of the persons named on the list.

Members of the advisory board may at any time request representatives of any federal, state, local, or private agency or group to serve

in a consulting capacity with the advisory board.

Members of the advisory board shall serve for terms of SEC. 4. three (3) years but the terms of the eight (8) initial appointees shall be as follows:

1. Two (2) members shall serve from the date of appointment until June 30, 1968.

2. Three (3) members shall serve from the date of appointment until June 30, 1969.

3. Three (3) members shall serve from the date of appointment until June 30, 1970.

Vacancies on the advisory board shall be filled for the unexpired term of the vacancy in the same manner as the original appointment. Members of the advisory board shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed actual and necessary expenses while engaged in offi-

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cial duties upon certification of the chairman of the advisory board to the state mining board.

SEC. 5. Prior to August 1 of each year, the advisory board shall meet and organize and shall elect a chairman and such other officers as advisory board members shall deem necessary. The chairman shall be responsible for calling meetings of the advisory board. Advisory board meetings shall be held at least quarterly and at such other times as the chairman of the advisory board or the chairman of the state mining board deems necessary or upon the request of four (4) or more advisory board members.

SEC. 6. The advisory board shall:

1. Advise the state mining board on any matter relating to administration and enforcement of this Act.

2. Advise the state mining board with respect to surface mined land

rehabilitation demonstration projects.

- 3. Advise the state mining board on the gathering, preparation, and dissemination of information on methods of rehabilitating land which has been surface mined and on any state, federal, or other financial assistance which may be available to assist in paying the cost of rehabilitation of the land.
- 4. Present to the Sixty-third (63rd) General Assembly not later than January 1, 1969 a summary of information on:
- a. The number of acres of land affected by surface mining in Iowa prior to January 1, 1968 and the number of acres of land so affected where surface mining operations had ceased prior to January 1, 1968 and are not likely to be resumed in the future.
- b. The extent to which acceptable rehabilitation measures have been carried out on land in Iowa affected by surface mining operations which ceased prior to January 1, 1968 and are not likely to be resumed in the future, and the possibility, practicability, and probable cost of rehabilitating the balance of Iowa land so affected.

c. Recommendations for any legislation believed necessary to encourage or assist the rehabilitation of Iowa land affected by surface mining operations which ceased prior to January 1, 1968 and are not

25 likely to be resumed in the future.

- 5. Prepare and present to the General Assembly, not later than January 1, 1973, a report on the extent of successful revegetation of land in Iowa rehabilitated pursuant to this Act and recommendations for any legislation believed necessary to encourage and assist revegetation of surface mined land.
- SEC. 7. No person, firm, partnership, or corporation shall engage in surface mining as defined by this Act or operation of an underground mine or mines, as defined by section eighty-two point twenty-seven (82.27) of the Code without first obtaining a license from the department. Licenses shall be issued upon application submitted on a form provided by the department and shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty (50) dollars. Each applicant shall be required to furnish on the form information necessary to identify the applicant. Licenses shall expire one (1) year from date of issuance and shall be renewed by the department upon application submitted within thirty (30) days

prior to the expiration date and accompanied by a fee of ten (10) dollars.

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SEC. 8. The department may, with approval of the board, commence proceedings to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license of any licensee for repeated or willful violation of any of the provisions of this Act or of chapters eighty-two (82) or eighty-three (83) of the Code. The department shall by certified mail or personal service serve on the licensee notice in writing of the charges and grounds upon which the license is to be suspended, revoked, or will not be renewed. The notice shall include the time and the place at which a hearing shall be held before the board to determine whether to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the license. The hearing shall be not less than fifteen (15) nor more than thirty (30) days after the mailing or service of the notice.

SEC. 9. Any licensee whose license the department proposes to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew shall have the right to counsel and may produce witnesses and present statements, documents, and other information in his behalf at the hearing. If after full investigation and hearing the licensee is found to have willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this Act or of chapters eighty-two (82) or eighty-three (83) of the Code, the board may affirm or modify the proposed suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew the license. When the board finds that a license should be suspended or revoked or should not be renewed, the department shall so notify the licensee in writing by certified mail or by personal service.

SEC. 10. Suspension or revocation of a license shall become effective thirty (30) days after the mailing or service of notice to the licensee. When the department proposes to deny an application for renewal of a license and administrative proceedings relevant to the renewal application are pending or in progress on the date the license is to expire, the license shall remain in force until the proceedings have been completed if the licensee has paid the renewal fee. If the board finds the license should not be renewed, the renewal fee shall be refunded and the license shall expire on the expiration date or thirty (30) days after mailing or service of notice to the licensee, whichever is later.

SEC. 11. A licensee may, within the thirty (30) day period following notice that his license has been suspended, revoked, or will not be renewed, file a notice of appeal in the district court. An appeal under this section shall operate to stay the suspension or revocation of a license or the expiration of an unrenewed license pending final decision of the appeal. A copy of the notice of appeal shall also be served upon the department, which shall within thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice certify and file with the court a copy of the record and decision including the transcript of the hearings on which the revocation, suspension, or refusal to renew the license was based.

SEC. 12. The trial before the court shall be an equity action and legal evidence pertaining to the issue of whether the license shall be suspended, revoked, or renewed may be submitted including new or

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- additional evidence not submitted to the department. The court shall 5 have the power to affirm, modify, or reverse the decision of the depart-6 ment. The clerk of court upon entry of judgment of suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew the license shall immediately forward to 8 the department a certified copy thereof.
 - Within fifteen (15) days after beginning removal of overburden at any site not previously registered, an operator engaging in surface mining in this state shall register the site with the department. Application for registration shall be made upon a form provided by the department. The application shall include a description of the tract or tracts of land where the site is located and the estimated number of acres at the site to be affected by surface mining. The description shall include the section, township, range, and county in which the land is located and shall otherwise describe the land with sufficient certainty to determine the location and to distinguish the land to be registered from other lands. The application shall include a statement explaining the source of the applicant's legal right to conduct surface mining on the land.
 - Each application for registration shall be accompanied SEC. 14. by a bond or security as required under sections twenty-three (23) or twenty-four (24) of this Act and a registration fee which shall be established by the department in an amount equal to but not greater than the cost of administering the registration provisions of this Act, as estimated by the department. After ascertaining that the applicant is licensed under section seven (7) of this Act and is not in violation of this Act with respect to any site previously registered with the department, the department shall register the site and shall issue the applicant written authorization to conduct surface mining on the site.
- An operator may at any time apply for amendment or cancellation of registration of any site. The application for amendment or cancellation of registration shall be submitted by the operator on a form provided by the department and shall identify as required under section thirteen (13) of this Act the tract or tracts of land to be added to or removed from registration. If the application is for an increase in the area of a registered site, the application shall be processed in the same manner as an application for original registration. If the application is to cancel registration of any or all of the unmined part of a site, the department shall after ascertaining that 10 no overburden has been disturbed or deposited on the land order re-11 lease of the bond or the security posted on the land being removed 13 from registration and cancel or amend the operator's written authorization to conduct surface mining on the site. Fees for amendment or 14 15 cancellation of registration shall be determined as provided in section fourteen (14) of this Act. No land where overburden has been disturbed or deposited shall be removed from registration or released 16 17 18 from bond or security under this section.
 - If control of an active site or the right to conduct any future mining at an inactive site is acquired by an operator other than the operator holding authorization to conduct surface mining on the site, the new operator shall within fifteen (15) days apply for regis-

tration of the site in the new operator's name. The application shall 5 6 be made and processed as provided under sections thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) of this Act. The former operator's bond or security 7 shall not be released until the new operator's bond or security has 8 9 been accepted by the department.

Every operator authorized under this Act to engage in SEC. 17. surface mining on a site where mining operations disturb overburden containing acid-forming materials shall, when feasible, avoid placing on the surfaces of spoil banks any materials likely to form acid in amounts which will prevent or impede establishment of desirable vegetation on the spoil banks. After completion of mining operations the operator shall within the time specified in section nineteen (19) of this Act:

 Grade irregular spoil banks to reduce peaks and ridges to a rolling topography suitable for establishment of desirable vegetation by striking off ridges and peaks to a width of at least twenty-four (24)

feet at the top.

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2. Grade spoil banks other than irregular spoil banks to slopes having a maximum of one (1) foot of vertical rise for each three (3) feet of horizontal distance except that where the original topography of the affected land was steeper than one (1) foot of vertical rise for each three (3) feet of horizontal distance, the spoil bank shall be graded to blend with the surrounding terrain.

3. Construct an earth dam in the final cut at any site where a lake or pond may be formed if necessary to properly control drainage from the site and if formation of a lake will not interfere with underground

or other mining operations or damage adjoining property.

4. Cover, with at least two (2) feet of earth or spoil material, acid-forming materials present in a mineral seam exposed by mining operations if the exposed acid-forming materials are not covered by

impounded water.

A bond or security posted under this Act to assure rehabilitation of land affected by surface mining shall not be released until all rehabilitation work required by this section has been performed to the department's satisfaction, except when a replacement bond or security is posted by a new operator under section sixteen (16) of this Act.

Every operator shall file with the department a periodic report for each site under registration indicating whether the site is presently active or inactive. Each report shall make reference to the most recent registration of the site and shall show:

1. The location and extent of all land on the site affected by surface

mining during the period covered by the report.

2. The extent to which removal of mineral products from all or any

part of the affected land has been completed.

A report as prescribed by this section shall be filed not later than twelve (12) months after original registration of the site and prior to the expiration of each subsequent twelve (12) month period thereafter. A report shall also be filed within thirty (30) days after completion of all surface mining operations at the site regardless of the date of the last preceding report. Forms on which periodic reports

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15 required by this section shall be filed shall be provided by the department.

An operator of a surface mine shall rehabilitate land SEC. 19. affected by surface mining within twenty-four (24) months after the filing of a report required under section eighteen (18) of this Act indicating the mining of any part of a site has been completed. Each operator, upon completion of any rehabilitation work required by section seventeen (17) of this Act, shall apply to the department in writing for approval of the work. The department shall within a reasonable time determined by departmental rule inspect the completed rehabilitation work. Upon determination by the department that the operator has satisfactorily completed all required rehabilitation work on the land included in the application, the department shall release the bond or security on the rehabilitated land, shall remove the land from registration, and shall terminate or amend as necessary the operator's authorization to conduct surface mining on the site.

SEC. 20. The time for completion of rehabilitation work may be extended upon presentation by the operator of evidence satisfactory to the department that rehabilitation of affected land cannot be completed within the time specified by section nineteen (19) of this Act without unreasonably impeding removal of mineral products from other parts of an active site or future removal of mineral products from an inactive site.

SEC. 21. Any political subdivision of the state of Iowa which engages or intends to engage in surface mining shall meet all requirements of sections thirteen (13) through twenty (20) of this Act except the subdivision shall not be required to post bond or security on registered land. When a political subdivision engaging in surface mining violates any provision of this Act or any rule or regulation adopted by the department pursuant to this Act, the department shall notify the chief administrative officer or governing body of the subdivision. If after a reasonable time determined by the department, the subdivision has not commenced corrective measures approved by the department, the violation shall be referred to the board. The chief administrative officer or governing body of the subdivision shall be notified in writing of the referral.

SEC. 22. Upon receipt of the referral, the board shall schedule a hearing on the violation by the political subdivision within thirty (30) days after the date of receipt. The board shall upon written request from the chief administrative officer or governing board afford representatives of the subdivision the right to appear before the board at the hearing. Representatives of the subdivision shall have the right to counsel, and may produce witnesses and present statements, documents, and other information with respect to the alleged violation for consideration of the board at the hearing. If the board determines the subdivision is in violation of any of the provisions of this Act or of any rule or regulation adopted by the department pursuant to this Act, the board shall request the attorney general to institute proceedings to enjoin the subdivision from conducting further surface min-

ing operations until the subdivision has completed corrective measures to the satisfaction of the department.

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Each bond filed with the department by an operator pursuant to this Act shall be in a form prescribed by the department, payable to the state of Iowa, and conditioned upon faithful performance by the operator of all requirements of this Act and all rules and regulations adopted by the department pursuant to this Act. The bond shall be signed by the operator as principal and by a corporate surety licensed to do business in Iowa as surety. In lieu of a bond, the operator may deposit cash or government securities with the department on the same conditions as prescribed by this section for filing of bonds. The amount of the bond or other security required to be filed with each application for registration of a surface mining site, or to increase the area of a site previously registered, shall be equal to the estimated cost of rehabilitating the site as required under section seventeen (17) of this Act. The estimated cost of rehabilitation of each individual site shall be determined by the department on the basis of relevant factors including but not limited to topography of the site, mining methods being employed, depth and composition of overburden, and depth of the mineral deposit being mined. The department may require an applicant for registration or amendment of registration of a site to furnish information necessary to estimate the cost of rehabilitating the site. The penalty of the bond or the amount of cash or securities on deposit may be increased or reduced from time to time in accordance with section fifteen (15) of this Act.

SEC. 24. Any operator who registers with the department two (2) or more surface mining sites may elect, at the time the second or any subsequent site is registered, to post a single bond in lieu of separate bonds on each site. Any single bond so posted shall be in an amount equal to the estimated cost of rehabilitating all sites the operator has registered, determined as provided in section twenty-three (23) of this Act. The penalty of a single bond on two (2) or more surface mining sites may be increased or decreased from time to time in accordance with sections fourteen (14), fifteen (15), and nineteen (19) of this Act. When an operator elects to post a single bond in lieu of separate bonds previously posted on individual sites, the separate bonds shall not be released until the new bond has been accepted by the department.

SEC. 25. No bond filed with the department by an operator pursuant to this Act may be cancelled by the surety without at least ninety (90) days notice to the department. If the license to do business in Iowa of any surety of a bond filed with the department is suspended or revoked, the operator, within thirty (30) days after receiving notice thereof from the department, shall substitute for the surety a corporate surety licensed to do business in Iowa. Upon failure of the operator to make substitution of surety as herein provided, the department shall have the right to suspend the operator's authorization to conduct surface mining on the site covered by the bond until substitution has been made. The commissioner of insurance shall notify the department whenever the license of any surety to do business in Iowa is suspended or revoked.

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- SEC. 26. An inspector may enter at all times upon any lands on which any operator is authorized to conduct surface mining for the purpose of determining whether the operator is or has been complying with the provisions of this Act. The department shall give written notice to any operator who violates any of the provisions of this Act or any rules and regulations adopted by the department pursuant to this Act. If corrective measures approved by the department are not commenced within ninety (90) days, the violation shall be referred to the board. The operator shall be notified in writing of the referral.
- Upon receipt of the referral, the board shall schedule a hearing on the violation by the operator within thirty (30) days after the date of receipt. The board shall upon written request afford the operator the right to appear before the board at the hearing. The operator shall have the right to counsel, and may produce witnesses and present statements, documents, and other information with respect to the alleged violation. If the board determines that the operator is in violation of this Act or of any rule or regulation adopted by the department pursuant to this Act, the board shall request the attorney general to institute bond forfeiture proceedings.
- The attorney general, upon request of the board, shall institute proceedings for forfeiture of the bond posted by an operator to guarantee rehabilitation of a site where the operator is in violation of any of the provisions of this Act or any rule or regulation adopted by the department pursuant to this Act. Forfeiture of the operator's bond shall fully satisfy all obligations of the operator to rehabilitate affected land covered by the bond. The department shall have the power to rehabilitate as required by section seventeen (17) of this Act any surface mined land with respect to which a bond has been forfeited, using the proceeds of the forfeiture to pay for the necessary rehabilitation work.
- Any operator who fails to make timely application for registration of each site where surface mining is being conducted is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty (50) dollars nor more than five hundred (500) dollars or by imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day surface mining activities are conducted at a site for which no application for registration has been made as required under section thirteen (13) of this Act shall constitute a separate violation.
- SEC. 30. Section eighty-two point one (82.1), Code 1966, is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:
 - 1. "To adopt rules and regulations in conformity with the mining laws of the state."
 - 2. "To conduct or arrange for, by contract or otherwise, demonstration projects relating to rehabilitation of land affected by surface mining prior to January 1, 1968, to the extent state, federal, or other funds are available for the purpose."
- 9 3. "To gather, prepare, and make available to owners of land which has been surface mined and to other interested persons information 10 on methods of rehabilitating the land and on any state, federal, or 11

- other financial assistance which may be available to assist in paying the cost of rehabilitation of the land."
 - 1 SEC. 31. Section eighty-two point seven (82.7), Code 1966, is 2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following:

"The governor may, upon the recommendation of the state mining board and the land rehabilitation advisory board, appoint to the staff of the department one (1) or more persons with professional competence in the area of surface mined land rehabilitation who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor."

SEC. 32. Section eighty-two point twenty-seven (82.27), Code 1966, is hereby amended by striking all of such section after the word "chapter" in line five (5) and inserting in lieu thereof the words "means any underground mine opened for the purpose of removing any ores or mineral solids for commercial purposes."

SEC. 33. Sections seven (7) and thirteen (13) of this Act shall take effect January 1, 1968. Operators shall be allowed sixty (60) days to complete registration of all active and inactive sites in existence on January 1, 1968.

Approved April 13, 1967.

CHAPTER 115

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

S. F. 508

AN ACT to amend section eighty-five point sixty-one (85.61), Code 1966, relating to workmen's compensation so as to include executive corporate officers within the definition of "workman" or "employee".

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. Section eighty-five point sixty-one (85.61), subsection two (2). Code 1966, is hereby amended by inserting after line four (4) thereof the following: "every executive officer elected or appointed 3 and empowered under and in accordance with the charter and bylaws 4 of a corporation, including a person holding an official position, or 5 standing in a representative capacity of the employer, and including 6 officials elected or appointed by the state, counties, school districts, 7 county boards of education, municipal corporations, or cities under any 8 form of government, and including members of the Iowa highway 9 safety patrol and conservation officers". 10

SEC. 2. Section eighty-five point sixty-one (85.61), Code 1966, is hereby further amended by striking all of subparagraph c of subsection three (3) thereof.

Approved June 8, 1967.